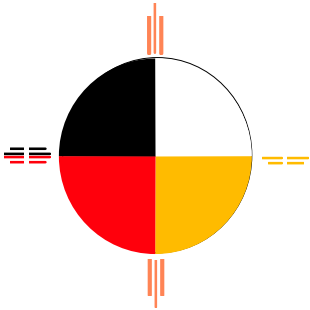


Transitions 2002

THE Restructuring Initiative Workgroup



Dear Tribal Leader:

In February 2002, the Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS) started the formal process of strengthening the Indian healthcare system by meeting with 20 representatives of Indian Country who comprise the Restructuring Initiative Workgroup, on which we serve as the Tribal and Federal co-chairs.

The Workgroup is focused on developing recommendations to realign the delivery of healthcare services to meet current and anticipated changes in the national environment. Although the entire Federal Government is undergoing broad reform, our work is focused on the healthcare services to American Indian and Alaska Native people and the effect that these reforms could have.

We want you and the people you represent to convey your views about what the Indian healthcare system of the future should be. Based on the Workgroup products and your input, we plan to submit draft recommendations to the IHS Director in June. Enclosed is some information about our work and how you can contact us. Please feel free to reproduce this information and distribute it widely.

We welcome and look forward to receiving your views about how we can transition the Indian health system so that it works effectively to serve you, your families, and your communities.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph A. Moquino
Council Member, San Juan Pueblo
Tribal Co-Chair

Kathleen A. Annette, M.D.
Director, Bemidji Area IHS
Federal Co-Chair

Enclosure

Gregg Bourland

Paul Sherry

Joseph A. Moquino

Sandra Ninham

Jami Hamel

Rosemary Nelson

Buford Rolin

Randall Morgan

Jefferson Keel

Velasquez Sneezy

Marilyn Scott

Francisco Munoz Jr.

H. Sally Smith

Tex Hall

Julia Davis

George "Mike" Lande

Dr. Kathleen Annette

Robert McSwain

Christopher Mandregan

Dr. Doug Peter